

Amendments in the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of cleaning fabrics in an automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus, comprising:

providing a wash chamber in the automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus for receiving a fabric load to be cleaned and a wash liquor composition, wherein the wash liquor composition comprises a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid and the fabrics to be cleaned and at least one washing adjuvant, and wherein the wash chamber is capable of being rotated in one direction for a period of time and is then rotated in the opposite direction for a period of time to complete an agitation cycle;

introducing the fabric load and the wash liquor composition into the wash chamber;
initiating a plurality of agitation cycles to clean the fabric load;
removing a majority of the wash liquor composition from the fabric load following completion of the plurality of agitation cycles; and

providing a stream of air through the wash chamber to substantially remove any remaining amount of the wash liquor composition in contact with the fabric load removing said working fluid from the fabric in said washing chamber; repeating the agitation cycle and the removal of said working fluid; and providing a stream of air through the wash chamber to substantially remove remaining working fluid from the fabric.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid under standard conditions is further characterized by comprises a fluid having a KB value less than approximately 30; a surface tension less than approximately 35 dynes/cm²; and a solubility in water less than 10%.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one washing adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of: builders, surfactants, enzymes, bleach activators, bleach catalysts, bleach boosters, bleaches, alkalinity sources, antibacterial agents, colorants, perfumes, pro-perfumes, finishing aids, lime soap dispersants, composition malodor control agents, odor neutralizers, polymeric dye transfer inhibiting agents, crystal growth inhibitors, photobleaches, heavy metal ion sequestrants, anti-tarnishing agents, anti-microbial agents, anti-oxidants, linkers, anti-redeposition agents, electrolytes, pH modifiers,

thickeners, abrasives, divalent or trivalent ions, metal ion salts, enzyme stabilizers, corrosion inhibitors, diamines or polyamines or alkoxylates, suds stabilizing polymers, solvents, process aids, fabric softening agents, optical brighteners, hydrotropes, water, suds or foam suppressors, suds or foam boosters, fabric softeners, antistatic agents, dye fixatives, dye abrasion inhibitors, anti-crocking agents, wrinkle reduction agents, wrinkle resistance agents, soil release polymers, soil repellency agents, sunscreen agents, anti-fade agents and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 3 1, wherein the at least one washing adjuvant further comprises a preferred surfactant for the systems will have having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance from approximately 3 to 14.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 including the step, further comprising a step of reversing the direction of rotation of the wash chamber in a manner which will change the surface of the fabric exposed to the air stream.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the air stream passing through the wash chamber is induced by a blower on the downstream size of the washing chamber and which is constructed and arranged to decrease the absolute pressure in the chamber, and whereby the ratio of the vapor pressure to the total pressure is increased.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 including the step of, further comprising a step of passing said working fluid-wash liquor composition through filter means of the type described in paragraph 82 of the specification a membrane filter.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 including the step of cooling the removed working fluid-wash liquor composition to a degree which solidifies the any water present to facilitate its removal by the membrane filter means.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7 providing a further cycle, further comprising a step wherein the working fluid wash liquor composition is cooled prior to passing through the membrane filter.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~including the step of~~ further comprising a step of passing said working fluid through ~~a permeate filter means of the specified type in paragraph 79 of the specification.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, ~~including the further comprising a step of cooling the working fluid wash liquor composition prior to passing through said last mentioned filter means the permeate filter to a degree which solidifies the any water present to facilitate its removal by the permeate filter means.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, ~~further comprising a step of providing a final cycle after the step wherein the working fluid is cooled prior to passing to the permeate filter and in which the cooling step is avoided.~~

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the air stream ~~is heated and controlled so that said heats the working fluid wash liquor composition does not see temperatures exceeding to a temperature that does not exceed a maximum temperature within about 30°F below the flash point of the working fluid.~~

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method of recovering working fluid from a wash liquor by sequentially performing the following treatments: treating the wash liquor either with carbon dioxide under pressure, performing temperature reduction, contacting it with a flocculating agent, adjusting its pH or contacting it with an ion exchange resin; and treating the effluent from the above step by means of one of the following materials: a dissolver, an emulsifiers, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, a soap, a pH shifter, a flocculating agent, a filtration material, a cake/drying material agent, by gravimetric means, by vortex separation, by distillation, by freeze distillation; treating the effluent from the above step with one of the following a coalescence agent, an absorption agent, an adsorption agent, a pH adjustment agent, an ion exchange resin; and treating the effluent from the above step by means of one of the following carbon dioxide under pressure, a flocculating agent, a pH adjuster, performing temperature reduction, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, an ion exchange resin.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14 wherein said non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid under standard conditions is further characterized by: a KB value less than approximately 30; a surface tension less than approximately 35 dynes/cm²; and a solubility in water less than 10%.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14 including the step of reducing the temperature prior to contacting the wash liquor with any of said material groups.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14 including the step of treating the wash liquor by electric coalescence of at least one of the materials.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14 wherein said filter/adsorption/absorption agents are treated by an anti-fouling chemical producing a phase change of the water to form ice crystals and catching the crystals by means of a filtering step.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The method of recovering working fluid from a wash liquor by sequentially performing the following treatments: treating the wash liquor either with carbon dioxide under pressure, performing temperature reduction, contacting it with a flocculating agent, adjusting its pH or contacting it with an ion exchange resin; treating the effluent from the above step with one of the following: a coalescence agent, an absorption agent, an adsorption agent, a pH adjustment agent, an ion exchange resin; then treating the effluent from the above step by means of one of the following materials: a dissolver, an emulsifiers, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, a soap, a pH shifter, a flocculating agent, a filtration material, a cake/drying material agent, by gravimetric means, by vortex separation, by distillation, by freeze distillation; and then treating the effluent by means of one of the following carbon dioxide under pressure, a flocculating agent, a pH adjuster, temperature reduction, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, an ion exchange resin.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 19 wherein the working fluid is a non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid and under standard conditions is

further characterized by: a KB value less than approximately 30; a surface tension less than approximately 35 dynes/cm²; and a solubility in water less than 10%.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 19 including the step of initially reducing the temperature of the wash liquor prior to its contact with any of said material groups.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 1, further comprising recovering the working fluid from the wash liquor composition by sequentially performing the following treatments:

treating the wash liquor composition with at least one member selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide under pressure, a temperature reduction, a flocculating agent, a pH adjusting agent, and an exchange resin treatment to provide a first effluent;

treating the first effluent with a water-removing agent comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a dissolver, an emulsifier, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, a soap, a pH adjusting agent, a flocculating agent, a filtration material, a cake/drying material agent, a gravimetric means, a vortex separation means, a distillation means, and a freeze distillation means to provide a second effluent;

treating the second effluent with one member selected from the group consisting of a coalescence agent, an absorption agent, an adsorption agent, a pH adjustment agent, an ion exchange resin to provide a third effluent; and

treating the third effluent with at least one member selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide under pressure, a flocculating agent, a pH adjusting agent, a temperature reduction, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, and an ion exchange resin to provide for a recovered working fluid.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of recovering the working fluid from the wash liquor composition by sequentially performing the following treatments:

treating the wash liquor composition with a first treatment selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide under pressure, under reduced temperature, a flocculating agent, a pH adjustment and an ion exchange resin to produce a first effluent;

treating the first effluent with a second treatment comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a coalescence agent, an absorption agent, an adsorption agent, a pH adjustment agent, an ion exchange resin to produce a second effluent;

treating the second effluent with a third treatment comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a dissolver, an emulsifier, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, a soap, a pH shifter, a flocculating agent, a filtration material, a cake/drying material agent, by gravimetric means, by vortex separation, by distillation, and by freeze distillation to produce a third effluent; and

treating the third effluent with a fourth treatment comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide under pressure, a flocculating agent, a pH adjusting agent, a temperature reduction, an adsorption agent, an absorption agent, and an ion exchange resin to produce a recovered working fluid.